

Senate Bill (SB) Number 2775

Title: Sex Education

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Victoria Anderson and I am a senior at Kailua High School. I am testifying on SB No. 2775, Sex Education. I support this Bill for the following reasons...

We are aware by law, it is stated by the Department of Education that schools must teach an abstinence based sex education policy/program. But we must also take in account of what schools actually do teach that material in classrooms and what schools do not. That is one of the reasons why this Bill came into play. Some students didn't think that abstinence-only material was helping or will help them in the future because teenagers will continue to ignore the abstinence-only material and they need the correct information so they can be protected and stay healthy, also minimize the teen pregnancies here in Hawaii.

Senate Bill Number 2775
Title: DOE; Sex Education

Good Afternoon, Senators. My name is Marissa Catalano and I am a sophomore at Castle High School. I am testifying on SB No. 2775, Sex Education.

I support this Bill for the following reasons, we are aware by law stated by the DOE that schools must teach an abstinence based sex education policy.

The reason this resolution came up is that we know there is a policy of abstinence based teaching that is supposed to be comprehensive, with the use of protective devices- that's not happening in schools.

This will be a life long teaching that will help us pass knowledge down to other generations to come.

Senator Norman Sakamoto Chair
Senator Tokuda Jilln Vice chair
Committee on

L A T E

Sex education
Monday, February, 11, 2008
Support of SB 2775 sex education

Hi my name is Keisha Ross representing Connections public charter school in Hilo Hawaii. You can contact me at Connections school the number is 866 961 3664. The address is 174 Kamehameha Ave Hilo Hawaii 96720. I strongly support S.B. No. 2775 relating to sex education.

The Board of education; Department of Education; Sex Education mandates a sex education curricula that includes the concepts of abstinence, contraception, and sexually-transmitted disease prevention, and is required for graduation from public secondary schools in Hawaii. I strongly support S.B. No. 2775 relating to sex education.

I strongly believe that students should have to pass a sexual education class in order to graduate from high school, because this class holds a lot of life long knowledge. When a student takes this class they learn the risks of being sexually active, they also learn about sexually transmitted diseases, contraceptives, and teen pregnancy. Some of the things that they learn in this class may change some of the ways that students think about being sexually active. I'm not trying to say that it is going to make them not want to be sexually active but hopefully it will help them make better choices in life.

Right now I would like to present you with a few facts, Hawaii now ranks twelfth among the 55 states in the number of teen pregnancy's, and tenth in incidences of Chlamydia. Students go to school go to school for 13 years to get educated, we must take math, social studies, science, language arts and P.E to pass high school why wouldn't a sexual education class be required as well.

Again my name is Keisha Ross representing Connections Public Charter High school in Hilo Hawaii and I am in support of S.B No. 2755 having sexual education as a requirement in all public, secondary schools in Hawaii. You can contact me at Connections school the number is 866 961 3664. The address is 174 Kamehameha Ave Hilo Hawaii 96720.

Lisa Caporicci

SB #2775

As a teen attending a public school in Hawaii, I realize that there is a lack of information among adolescence regarding topics such as birth control, sexually transmitted diseases, abstinence, sexual abuse, resisting peer pressure, implications of teen pregnancy, and even factual and ethical information dealing with abortion. Because of this shortage of important information, I believe that this is the reason why a lot of teens in Hawaii are making poor decisions dealing with their sexual health and a possibility of why Hawaii ranks twelfth among the fifty states in the number of teen pregnancies and tenth in the occurrence of sexually-transmitted diseases.

Therefore, I agree that the board of education should adopt a comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education program that is mandatory for graduation from all public secondary schools, and includes in its curriculum the concepts of abstinence, contraception, and sexually-transmitted disease prevention. Along with this, I believe that the board should also offer help and information for sexual abuse, resisting peer pressure and accurate and moral information dealing with abortion. Teens should be given the information of how to protect themselves as well as information about what to do if STDs, pregnancies, abuse and resisting peer pressure occur.

If the board of education should adopt this rule, I firmly believe that teens will gain much needed knowledge about their sexual health and hopefully be able to make more informed decisions when topics dealing with sex are presented to them. Again, as a teen attending a public school in Hawaii, it would be comforting to know that we are all receiving the knowledge, consideration and care that we deserve regarding confidence and health. The youth of Hawaii should not be kept in the dark about their sexual health any longer.

Senate Bill (SB) Number 2775
Title: Sex Education

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Jenise Fo and I am a Senior at Kailua High School. I am testifying on SB No. 2775, Sex Education. I support this Bill for the following reasons...

We are aware by law, it is stated by the Department of Education that schools must teach an abstinence based sex education policy. The reason this resolution came up is that we know there is a policy of abstinence based teaching that is supposed to be comprehensive with the use of protective devices but that is not happening in schools. *consistently and* ~~It is not~~ *comprehensively*

To:

From: Kathy Kim, A delegate of SSC

SB 2775

Date: Friday, November, 30, 2007

Subject: Teaching students more than abstinence. 39

Although abstinence is the right thing to know and practice, I think teaching students more about contraceptives would improve the problem of teenage pregnancy.

Even though abstinence is taught, it doesn't mean that kids are not going to have sex. Kids are going to have sex out of curiosity. A close example is when kids are taught not to smoke, but they do it anyways, and the biggest reason for doing it is out of curiosity.

Therefore, teaching the students the "right" way of having sex. Not only the "right" way but the safe way. Implement this resolution and make classes to help teenagers.

SB 2775

To:

From: Delegate Laralyn Gose from the 2007 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution #2339

The current sex education taught at Hawaii's secondary schools only includes the teaching of abstinence. However realistically speaking the current program does not inform teens of the realities of sex and all of the options included with it. I strongly support this resolution because as a teenager, I do not feel like I am getting the entire picture of sex.

This resolution points out that Hawaii ranks 12th nationwide for teen pregnancies, and 10th in the nation for transmission of the STD, Chlamydia. This is a big problem and is due to the students lack of knowledge of sex. If we the students are taught about contraceptives at least the kids that have had premarital sex can learn safe sex because face it: not all kids will practice abstinence or have practiced abstinence. And if we remain ignorant about sex, we can make the mistake of having sex, or not using contraceptives.

The fact that this resolution is asking to make sex education mandatory is a smart move, because it will decrease rate of teen pregnancies and STD's. By including contraceptives in the curriculum, it will help to further decrease numbers and help keep the community aware of sex education in general.

By supporting this resolution, you will be promoting a safe, happy, and well informed foundation for future kids and students everywhere. I urge you to please consider to support this issue. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB 2775

To:

From: Heather Schulz delegate from the 2007 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference

Date: November 30, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution 39 of the SSC

Resolution 39 is recommending that the Hawaii Board of Education look into changing its policy of abstinence – only sex education in the secondary schools of Hawaii to a comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education program including both abstinence and the use of contraceptives, and that it makes this program mandatory for graduation. This resolution makes sex-education more informational and a mandatory program. So that people no matter what, are informed about contraceptives and abstinence.

The program of sex-education now only talks about abstinence, but the truth of the matter is abstinence will not be used by the teens now. We need to prepare them for the real world. This resolution is not saying that you should go out and have sex, but it is giving information on how to have sex safely if chosen to do so. People might say that teens will still go out and have sex, but if these teens get this information and it only reaches one of them, the program has been successful. That is one less teen risking their whole lives because they got a sexually transmitted disease or became pregnant. Think about it.

SB 2775

To:

From: Delegate Jeffrey Spraker from the 2007 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution 39, Relating to the extension of the curriculum in current Hawaii Secondary School Sex-Education programs to cover use of contraceptives.

High schools already have sex education programs designed to reduce teen pregnancies. Unfortunately, they do not work as well as today as they were designed to. All these programs end up doing is exposing students to sex and STD's. The only deterrent it recommends is total abstinence from sex. For many students, abstinence is not very appealing, and they will have sex regardless of the sex education warnings, as in proven by the unreasonable number of pregnant students of my high school.

Since many teens will refuse to remain abstinent, even after going through sex education courses courses, it appears obvious that a new method of pregnancy and STD prevention is necessary. The best solution is the addition of proper contraceptive use into the curriculum of sex education courses. This way, even if teens decided to have sex, they will be better able to protect themselves.

This resolution will be simple to enact, because it only calls for the additional teaching of contraceptives to already existing sex education courses. If such an addition may be offensive to some people, they will still have the option of signing a waver to opt out of the course. Therefore, this resolution has no negative consequences, but does have the ability to protect Hawaii's youth. Thank you for your time and please consider the possible futures of the girls who are now pregnant because they had not have the chance to learn what the program of Resolution 39 could have taught them.

To:

SB 2775

From: Delegate Trinity Anaise Nguyen from the 2007 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution 39, Regarding Contraceptive Education

In school we take health as a requirement to graduate. Many students do not pay attention in class because everything in regards to sex education is geared towards abstinence. We are constantly told that abstinence is the key and that is that. Instead of having an opinion pushed at us, we would like to learn about all aspects of sex – especially contraceptives. In my graduating class of 2008, I know five girls with children.

The implementation of Resolution 39 which would allow for education on use of contraceptives would help decrease the high number of teen pregnancies. Some people do not agree with abstinence or it is not their lifestyle; for these people, they should at least be given the education that they deserve to know how and why to use contraceptives. The education on contraceptives will not promote sexual activities because it is educating people how to be safe for when they decide to do it. The truth is that everyone will have sex, so the more they are educated, the safer they will be.

The addition of contraceptive education will not need for a whole program to be created. It can just as easily be incorporated in our already mandatory health class, relieving financial concerns. It would be quick, simple, efficient and effective in creating healthier and more knowledgeable lifestyles for future generations. I urge the committee to pass Resolution 39. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To:

SB 2775

From: Delegate Alesha Gooden 2007 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference

Date: Friday, November 30, 2007

Subject: Support of Secondary Student Conference Resolution 39, Relating to sex education

We were given the opportunity to attend the Secondary Student Conference where we voted against and for the passing of student resolutions. We strongly support Resolution 39, recommending that the Hawaii Board of Education change its policy of abstinence-only sex education programs to include abstinence as well as the use of contraceptives. This mandatory program would no doubt increase the amount of sexually aware teenagers contemplating their maturity into sexual activity.

Currently, Hawaii ranks 12th among teen pregnancies nationwide, and 10th in regards to the transmission of the STD, Chlamydia. We strongly believe that a major contributor to these statistics are the lack of teens possessing sufficient knowledge and sexual and sexual awareness. During our debates, a delegate stated that in her school, there were people who still believed you could not get pregnant the first time you participate in intercourse. Personally, I believe that this is unacceptable. In order to increase awareness, you must be properly informed. Before participating in sexual activity, you need to know the proper facts about contraceptives, and sex in general, in order to make the best decisions about your actions and your bodies.

This implementation of this resolution is strongly need because of the fact that you do not necessarily need to create a new program. It shows that the policy should be changed, nothing more. This could simply mean changing the curriculum of health classes in an effort to incorporate awareness about contraceptives, if not more. The way we see it, this resolution is nothing more than a positive, an so, will definitely keep the help and longevity of today's youth rather than hurt it.

To:

SB 2775

From: Natasha Abadilla, Hawaii Secondary Student Conference

Date: November 28, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution 39, Curricular

My name is Natasha Abadilla, and I have just recently attended the 2007 Hawaii Secondary Student Conference as a delegate from the district of Kauai. During this conference, we have passed resolutions pertaining to the state of Hawaii. I strongly support Resolution 39, concerning the change of the Hawaii Board of Education policy of abstinence-only sex education to a comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education program for secondary school students.

Secondary school students should have the right to learn in school not only about abstinence, but also about other alternative methods and contraceptives to reduce the risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases in teens. Hawaii ranks 12th among teen pregnancies and 10th for transmission of sexually-transmitted disease, Chlamydia, in our nation! Secondary school students should have the chance and the right to learn about alternative methods and contraceptives for safer sex. I am only a sophomore, but I know five girls in my class who are mothers or soon-to-be mothers, and about a dozen more who are worried of being pregnant! They wish they learned of ways to prevent that. Some girls even believe that you can't get pregnant from your first time having sex! I hate to believe that these girls have a worse chance to accomplish their goals set prior to pregnancy because they did not know how to prevent it. Also, these sexually active students hardly ever think about diseases they so widely transmit around the island.

By providing comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education programs in schools, students will get information that will be valuable to them not just in high school, but throughout their lives. Thank you for your time and the chance to voice my opinions as a secondary school student in Hawaii.

To:

From: Candice Klein, Hawaii Secondary Student Conference

SB 2775

Date: November 28, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution 39, Curricular

I strongly support resolution 39, relating to curricular concerns, that which the Hawaii Board of Education change its policy of abstinence-only sex education to one that includes both abstinence and the use of contraceptives.

In the modern day world where premarital sex is encouraged and broadcasted through entertainment, students are more prone to sexual activity. Realistically, abstinence is no longer feasible. We need to reduce the amount of pregnancies and STD's.

High school is meant to prepare students for their futures. One day, students will have sexual intercourse. If they do not learn the correct precautions such as contraceptives, how will they know how to use them in the future? Those students will become ignorant.

In teaching both abstinence and contraceptives, we are eliminating the problem of ignorance and replacing it with the power of knowledge. I urge the committee to pass resolution 3. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

To:

SB 2775

From: Kauai District Student Council

Date: December 11, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution 39, Curricular

This resolution is recommending the sex education program as a mandatory class for graduation. Studies have shown that sex education is effective and is beneficial to the students. Sex education is a comprehensive and reasonable program for age-appropriate students to possess the knowledge of contraceptives, S.T.D.s, abstinence and teen pregnancy. I support this resolution, but the only concern that I have is the name of the program. I propose the Sex Ed class be addressed as a health related class. Some classes actually include Sex Ed in their health curriculum. I agree and support this to be an extended or mandatory program because the material that is being taught can prevent the transmission of S.T.D.s and teen pregnancies.

I myself, have evidence that practicing abstinence will promote a healthier lifestyles, more enjoyable, stress free life. I, along with other students, have acquired such knowledge in health classes, but some haven't kept the knowledge, and have taken it too lightly. If they had practiced the material they have learned, then I am sure they would have not live in regret.

Concluding on this, my support is for this resolution. I have too many experiences and classmates that now live with regret. When the material was fresh in their minds. They could never see themselves as a person with an S.T.D or victim of teen pregnancy. To keep the material fresh in their minds, this program should be taught for an extended period of time.

To:

From: Kellie Nada, Waimea High School

SB 2775

Date: Monday, December 17, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution 39, curricular

Resolution 30 referring to curricular concerns is about making a comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education program including abstinence and the use of contraceptives mandatory for graduation. I support this resolution.

I support this because students learn about abstinence in school, but girls are still getting pregnant, and this program will at least teach them how to have safe sex. Another reason is because high school is meant to prepare students for the future. The last reason is because this program will probably decrease the rate of teen pregnancy and diseases.

These are some of the reasons why I support this resolution concerning making a sex education program including abstinence and the use of contraceptives mandatory for graduation.

SB 2775

To:

From: Chaelyn Briones, Waimea High School Student Council

Date: Monday, December 17, 2007

Subject: Support of Resolution 39

I support Resolution 39, which recommends that the Board of Education should look into changing its policy of abstinence-only sex education in Hawaii's Secondary Schools. This age-appropriate sex education should be mandatory for graduation because it will teach young adults in high school about both abstinence and the use of contraceptives.

Since high school is meant to help prepare students for the future, we should try to teach them everything that we can offer, like having the sex education program. One of these days, they are going to have to make that important decision of being abstinent or not. We have to prepare them and give them that opportunity to choose before it's too late.

With the program being mandatory and effective, every student will be well aware of sex. If they choose not to practice abstinence, we should at least teach them how to be safe from STDs. Even though this program may not affect everyone, it's something that can help make a difference on lowering pregnancy and STD rates.

In adopting this age-appropriate sex education program and making it mandatory, students are aware of the decision. We are also giving them the opportunity to choose between abstinence or contraceptives. Thank you very much for your time.

Sample Testimony Template

Senate Bill (SB) Number 2775
Title:

Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Kevin Bonahue and I am a Senior (freshman/sophomore/junior/senior) at Saint Louis High

School. I am testifying on SB No. 2775, Concerning creation of Comprehensive Sex Ed

I am strongly opposed to this Bill OR I support this Bill for the following reasons..... program in Hawaii public schools

- 1) Currents Hawaii policy stresses abstinence as the expense of a comprehensive sex ed program. For example, "Try Vicit" is a federally-funded program approved for use in several Hawaii public schools. The program only advocates abstinence with songs like "sex is not an option until I hear my wedding bells" and comprehensive education offered is sure to be taken as an afterthought.
- 2) Comprehensive sex ed is simply more effective than abstinence-based program. Numerous studies have shown decrease in pregnancy rates. Furthermore, comprehensive sex ed doesn't ~~decrease~~ decrease age of sexual initiation

3) The fact is, kids are having sex. Such a large population views premarital sex as moral. That any program ~~scolding~~ for their actions will have less impact. Rather, we ought to guide students' sexual choices ~~for~~ with education regarding appropriate methods to prevent STDs and pregnancy.

~~This is not a question of morals~~

The moral question regarding comprehensive sex ed. is indeed controversial, however, ~~it is~~ it is the duty of the legislature to make policy in the best interests of the people. SB 2775 would lower rates of STD and teen pregnancy in Hawaii. ~~For these~~ For these reasons, I strongly support the bill.